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JUN 06 2007

Docket No. LPTF03
US App. No. 10/502,269

REMARKS**Status of the Application**

All pending claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over pua et al. (2002/0147882).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to further clarify the invention. Claims 2-8 are also amended accordingly. No new matter adds through the amendments. For the reasons discussed below, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pua.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for reasons discussed below.

Claim 1 as amended reads as:

1. An USB removable memory with replaceable storage medium for optional upgrade and extension of the storage capacity, including an USB connector, a controller and a replaceable flash memory, characterized in that: said USB connector and said controller are integrated as a memory body, and said memory body does not include any built-in flash memory; the replaceable flash memory as a physically-independent storage component is replaceably and directly attached to the body, and is electrically connected to the controller for the controller to read from or to write to the flash memory.

Pua teaches a flash memory device that is connectable to a computer via a universal serial bus. As shown in Fig. 1, the main board 100 of the flash memory device 5 of Pua comprises a controller 40 and at least one flash memory chip 50. A USB connector 10 connects the flash memory storage device 5 with a USB host. Paragraph [0067], Page 4. Pua also teaches that "the flash memory storage device 5 further comprises an extension stack connector 20 that allows for extending the number of flash memories 120 on slave boards 150". Paragraph [0068], Page 4.

However, Pua fails to teach or suggest that "said USB connector and said controller are integrated as a memory body, and said memory body does not include any built-in flash memory" as required by claim 1. Instead, Pua specifically requires that "[t]he main board 100 of the flash memory storage device 5 comprises a controller 40 and at least one flash memory chip 50". Clearly, the flash memory storage device 5 contains at least one built-in flash memory 50.

This difference is technically significant. Because the integrated body of the USB

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connector and the controller does not include a built-in flash memory, the size and the cost of such a memory body can be significantly reduced.

For the reasons discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over Pua. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-10 are also patentable over Pua. In addition, Pua is totally silent about the specific configurations of the USB removable memory recited in these dependent claims.

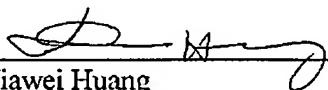
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectively submitted
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